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Media Release

EMPORIA MEN SENTENCED IN FAMILY-RUN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Donald W. Thompson, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Division, announced the sentencing of Darryl M. Walker, age 32, and Eric Walker, age 35, before the Honorable Richard L. Williams. Darryl Walker was sentenced yesterday to a term of 360 months for his involvement in a crack conspiracy that ran from at least early 1998 until the case was indicted by a federal grand jury in December 2001. His cousin, Eric Walker, was sentenced yesterday to a term of 262 months of imprisonment.

Both men were sentenced under the federal sentencing guidelines as “career offenders” in that each had prior felony convictions for drug trafficking. The conspiracy charged was a family-run operation in Emporia. Eric Walker was charged along with his mother, half-sister, and brother. Darryl Walker is a cousin to the Walker family, as are several other members of the conspiracy.

This case was indicted as one of the first “Community Impact” cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. The “Community Impact” initiative

was designed by U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty to direct federal resources to communities with the greatest need for federal intervention. Federal agencies work with the local authorities to target a particular drug organization and expeditiously secure a federal indictment. Once the targets are in federal custody, local law enforcement officers are in a better position to police their respective communities and maintain a status quo of public safety.

U.S. Attorney McNulty stated: “The tough sentences received by Eric Walker and Darryl Walker demonstrate the impact a federal prosecution can make. The removal of this drug ring has improved the quality of life in Emporia and made it a better and safer place to live. We are committed to breaking up drug rings that threaten the well-being of our communities.”

The case was investigated by the FBI, the Emporia Police Department and the Greensville Sheriff’s Office and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura C. Marshall.

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